

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING THE 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE PAUL L. FOSTER SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AT THE TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER EL PASO

**HON. VERONICA ESCOBAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 11, 2020*

Ms. ESCOBAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the ten-year anniversary of the Paul L. Foster School of Medicine at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso. For ten years, the Foster School of Medicine has provided quality medical education to future physicians that will serve the health care needs of patients throughout the country.

In 2008, prior to the opening of the Foster School of Medicine, El Paso County's average number of direct care physicians per 100,000 people was 75 percent less than the national average. In an effort to alleviate this severe shortage of physicians in the region, government leaders, community physicians, and community supporters worked to establish a four-year medical school in El Paso.

The Foster School of Medicine has the distinct honor of becoming the first four-year medical school on the United States-Mexico border. It was also one of the first medical schools in the U.S. to integrate medical Spanish into its curriculum, allowing our nation's future physicians to provide culturally competent care.

The Foster School of Medicine focuses its curriculum on community service. In 2013, the Foster School of Medicine established the Medical Student Run Clinic by a group of students from the inaugural class with the help of faculty and staff. Students serve the community of Sparks in far East El Paso, where the majority of the population is uninsured. The Medical Student Run Clinic is often their only access to health care.

Congratulations to the Foster School of Medicine for their achievements in this decade. And I thank the faculty, staff, and students for being leaders in health care while giving back to the El Paso community.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MEGAN BELL

**HON. HAROLD ROGERS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 11, 2020*

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Megan Bell, my Chief of Staff, as she moves on from my Washington office after nearly 13 years of service. During her time on Capitol Hill, she has been a trusted advisor, an appropriations watchdog for this great Nation, and most im-

portantly—a tireless advocate for the people of Southern and Eastern Kentucky.

Megan grew up the only daughter of a middle-class, blue-collar Irish-Catholic family. Those “up-early” and “hard-at-it” values have shown up every day to the Rayburn Building.

Knowing the issues that matter most in my home district, she has been a consummate advocate on everything from combatting prescription drug abuse and preserving and protecting the Mill Springs Battlefield, to giving a voice to individuals at risk of losing vital benefits and boosting opportunities in our coalfields. In fact, she helped create a pilot grant program to provide an influx of federal dollars directly to our coal communities for economic development as they continue to rebuild in the wake of the War on Coal, which she precisely described as “strangulation by regulation.” Likewise, her tough, dogged oversight of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers helped protect the business and community interests of our rural region, and the entire Lake Cumberland area during the unprecedented repairs of Wolf Creek Dam.

She contributed to the remarkable success of the National Rx Drug Abuse and Heroin Summit, working alongside my district director Karen Kelly, to rally the White House and leaders from every stakeholder agency to help lead a holistic movement that is now the largest gathering of federal, state and community leaders focused on life-saving efforts to fight the national opioid crisis. The entire prescription drug abuse and opioid fight wasn't just another issue for Megan, but one she passionately invested countless hours to study and understand at every level. She knows the opioid fight, the convictions of my heart, and the challenges in our communities, backwards and forwards. As a result of her expertise and expansive network, we called on other federal leaders to stand up to “Big Pharma” corruption, and enacted effective policy and legislative changes, like Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs, starting the Congressional Caucus on Prescription Drug Abuse, and so many other efforts that will continue to impact the opioid epidemic for many years to come.

Navigating legislative ropes, surviving long hours, and becoming a glorified policy wonk inside these historic hallways, requires much more than a juris doctorate, which she impressively earned while working full-time in my office. In her time on my team, Megan has rightfully earned recognition far beyond Washington for her astute knowledge of multiple issues and has truly risen amongst her peers as a result of her sheer moxie, her engaging personality, and always maintaining a refreshing voice of reason.

Our staff is much like family and every departure is bittersweet. As we offer well-wishes and work to fill the void of such a talented leader, I wish Megan the very best in the next chapter of her successful life and look forward to witnessing the accomplishments that are sure to come in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF PASTOR ITASKER HOLLINS, SR.

**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 11, 2020*

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I rise to honor the life of Pastor Itasker Hollins, Sr., who passed away on February 2, 2020 at the age of 82. His legacy will live on through the love of his family and friends. Pastor Hollins was blessed with the support of his family, his wife Julia, daughters Judith, Diane, Nancy, son Elder Itasker, Jr., their spouses, and grandchildren, as well as sisters and brothers, nieces and nephews, and church family.

On April 20, 1937 in Dallas, Texas, Pastor Hollins was born the 13th of 15 children to Pastor Booker T. Hollins, Sr. and Missionary Viola Hollins. In 1952 his family relocated to California. Pastor Hollins met Julia in 1955 and they married two years later. They created a loving family of three daughters and one son.

Many momentous achievements outline Pastor Hollins' career. In 1975, he and Julia began services at the Oak Park Methodist Church in Sacramento, California. He and his wife later formed the All Nations Church on Broadway in the heart of the Oak Park community. There, the congregation benefited from programs including a weekly food bank, annual home buyers' seminars, financial classes, jail and prison outreach programs, yearly prostate and breast cancer seminars, computer training, tutoring programs, and summer youth programs. The project was named “The Miracle on Broadway”. The work of Pastor Hollins and his wife only continued to grow. In 2013, the Itasker Hollins Community Economic Development Corporation, in partnership with the Related California Corporation, built a senior complex in Oak Park. For over four decades, Pastor Hollins served the ministry, earning him recognition as a spiritual and community leader.

Madam Speaker, today we honor Pastor Itasker Hollins, Sr. and his contributions to our community. His legacy will live on forever.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GEORGE HOLDING**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 11, 2020*

Mr. HOLDING. Madam Speaker, I was inadvertently detained and unable to make votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 55; and YEA on Roll Call No. 56.

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. W. GREGORY STEUBE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 11, 2020*

Mr. STEUBE. Madam Speaker, I was absent for votes due to a personal family matter out of state.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 55, and YEA on Roll Call No. 56.

## COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF BILLIE SUE HOGGARD

**HON. ERIC A. "RICK" CRAWFORD**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 11, 2020*

Mr. CRAWFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of my close friend Billie Sue Hoggard, who passed away on Sunday evening. Billie Sue was a lifelong public servant, a political pioneer, and a devout follower of the Lord. She brightened every room she entered, had a wonderful sense of humor, and a truly unmistakable laugh.

Billie Sue was a nationally board-certified teacher. Generations of students in Jonesboro, across five decades and four schools, were blessed to find themselves in her classroom. She was selected for three international teaching exchanges by the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, teaching in China, Japan, and Mexico. Her passion for teaching could not be extinguished—she came out of a well-deserved retirement just a few years ago to go back to the classroom.

Billie Sue's service to her community extended to public office. She was appointed by Governor Mike Huckabee as Justice of the Peace on the Craighead County Quorum Court and as the Commissioner for the Arkansas Educational Television Network. She was later elected by the people of the county to continue her service on the Quorum Court. She was an active member of many civil service organizations, including the American Legion Auxiliary, Lion's Club, and countless education advocacy groups.

Billie Sue was a groundbreaking pioneer of conservatism in Arkansas. In the era of the "yellow dog democrat," Billie Sue was unabashedly Republican. She ran for State Representative in Northeast Arkansas as a Republican at a time in which it was unheard of to do so. While she did not win her election to state office, I believe it is safe to say that without her, Eastern Arkansas would not be the conservative bastion it is today. Under her leadership of the Craighead County Republican Party from 2010 to 2018, the county flipped all legislative seats and well over half of county wide offices. She was awarded the "Hi, I'm Frank White" Award in 2017, the highest distinction given by the Arkansas GOP.

Billie Sue was a living proof that with passion, tenacity, and a tireless work ethic, an individual can accomplish anything. She put it best when she said, "I am personally convinced that one person can be a change catalyst, a transformer in any situation, any organi-

zation. Such an individual is yeast that can leaven an entire loaf. It requires vision, initiative, patience, respect, persistence, courage, and faith to be a transforming leader."

I know today that Billie Sue Hoggard left this Earth proud of her litany of accomplishments and the positive transformations she made in Arkansas. Billie Sue is survived by her children, Tammy, Kayla, Jess, and Tim, and grandchildren Meagan, Dane, Maxwell, Emma, Bella, Kate, and Jesslyn. I ask Congress to join me in offering condolences to Billie Sue's family, and commemorating the life and achievements of an incredible leader and servant.

## HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MR. DAVID STERN

**HON. NITA M. LOWEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 11, 2020*

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life, accomplishments, and legacy of Mr. David Stern of Scarsdale, New York. Mr. Stern passed away on January 1, 2020, at the age of 77. An attorney by training, Mr. Stern served as commissioner of the National Basketball Association (NBA) from 1984 through 2014. Mr. Stern is survived by his adoring wife, Dianne, and his two sons, Andrew and Eric.

As NBA Commissioner, Mr. Stern shepherded the NBA from a middling American sports product to a global entertainment giant. During his tenure as commissioner, the NBA gained 7 new franchises, opened offices in 15 cities outside the United States, and televised games in more than 200 countries and in 50 languages.

Business accomplishments aside, David Stern's socially responsible leadership of the league was truly groundbreaking. He was deeply committed to advancing opportunities for women in the game of basketball, overseeing the creation of the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) in 1997. In speaking of his commitment to the WNBA, the league's first president, Val Ackerman, said, "Without his vision and engagement, the league wouldn't have gotten off the ground. He was the mastermind, and the WNBA was really in line with his vision about how sports and society are intertwined."

We also recognize David Stern for his support of Los Angeles Lakers forward Earvin 'Magic' Johnson in the wake of Johnson's HIV+ diagnosis in 1991. In an era of great mythmaking and stigma regarding people living with AIDS and HIV, Stern appeared publicly with Johnson at a press conference in the announcement's wake and invited Johnson to participate in that NBA season's All-Star game. The next summer, he ensured Johnson's inclusion on the 1992 Olympic 'Dream Team' that sent NBA players to compete in the Olympics for the first time in the league's history, an achievement Stern also masterminded.

Stern's public support for Magic Johnson, coupled with his efforts to educate both the league and the public about the reality of the disease, was more than just a nice gesture from employer to employee. It was a bold, public demonstration of compassion that

changed minds and undoubtedly helped save lives. For this, we honor the character and strength of David Stern.

Madam Speaker, I urge all Members of Congress to join me in recognizing David Stern's exceptional accomplishments and in sending our sincerest condolences to his family, friends and colleagues.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 11, 2020*

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I regretfully missed votes on Monday, February 10, 2020. I had intended to vote "yes" on roll call vote 55, and "yes" on vote 56.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. HARLEY ROUDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 11, 2020*

Mr. ROUDA. Madam Speaker, I missed votes on Monday, February 10, 2020 to attend a memorial service in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: Roll Call Vote No. 55 (On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 2932, as Amended): YEA; and Roll Call Vote No. 56 (On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 3413, as Amended): YEA.

## PROTECTING CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AGAINST DRONES AND EMERGING THREATS ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 10, 2020*

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4432, the "Protecting Critical Infrastructure Against Drones and Emerging Threats Act."

As Chairman of the Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Innovation Subcommittee, I have made it a priority to understand the security challenges facing our critical infrastructure and to figure out solutions.

My district in Louisiana has one of the nation's highest concentrations of critical infrastructure—including pipelines, refineries, ports, and stadiums.

I have talked with owners and operators of critical infrastructure in my district and across the nation about the security issues they're facing, and there is always one common theme: Drones.

Drones are hardly a new technology, but they do present policymakers at every level of government with serious challenges.

It's a challenging issue because drone technology is an important tool in infrastructure security, providing situational awareness over critical infrastructure.

At the same time, we know bad actors can use drones to move explosives, conduct surveillance and mapping activities, and carry out cyber attacks.

The weaponization of drones is not just a potential concern—we have seen it happen.

Late last summer, drones were used to strike oil installations in Saudi Arabia, halting half of the country's oil production. And, in late 2018, reports of drone activity near the runway at Gatwick Airport outside London grounded hundreds of flights.

The Federal government is aware of the security threats posed by drones, but we don't have a full picture of where and how often unauthorized drone activity is happening near our critical infrastructure.

Owners and operators of chemical facilities regulated under the Chemical Facilities Antiterrorism Standards program have complained that no one in the Federal government collects information about unauthorized drone activity over their facilities.

Our operators want to share important threat information that can inform our antiterrorism efforts but there's no one to collect it.

We must do better.

H.R. 4432 would require DHS to establish a way for owners and operators to voluntarily report information about unauthorized drone activity over their facilities. DHS would then use that information to develop a threat assessment on unmanned aerial systems and other emerging threats.

H.R. 4432 marks an important step forward for DHS in its partnership with the private sector and in gaining full situational awareness about the threats posed by drones in the U.S.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

I want to note my concerns with the President's FY 2021 budget request for the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA).

Despite bipartisan agreement that CISA needs more resources to deal with more frequent and sophisticated cyber attacks, the budget slashes DHS' cybersecurity arm by \$250 million. Inexplicably, it calls for a \$10 million cut for cybersecurity support for State and local governments, at a time when they are increasingly targeted by foreign adversaries and criminal hackers.

Worse still, it would eliminate funding for DHS' chemical antiterrorism security program that was established under the leadership of former Secretary Chertoff in response to intelligence suggesting chemical facilities would be a ripe target for terrorists.

Chemical facilities remain a target for terrorists, and I am disturbed by the Administration's poor judgment related to this important antiterrorism program.

With that, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4432.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. KATHLEEN M. RICE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 11, 2020*

Miss RICE of New York. Madam Speaker, I was necessarily absent from votes on Monday, February 10, 2020. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 55, and YEA on Roll Call No. 56.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 11, 2020*

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, due to flight schedules, I was unable to be in D.C. for votes. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 55, and YEA on Roll Call No. 56.

#### AMID BOOMING ECONOMY URGING TRUMP ADMINISTRATION TO RELEASE SUPPLEMENTAL H-2B VISAS

**HON. ANDY HARRIS**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 11, 2020*

Mr. HARRIS. Madam Speaker, thanks to the Trump Administration, the American economy is booming. Job growth surged by 225,000 positions in January, and the unemployment rate remains near the 50 year low. These are just the latest indicators of a resurgent American economy under President Trump. With Mr. Trump in office, the U.S. economy has added more than 100,000 new jobs for 34 of the 38 months and the unemployment rate has been at or below 4 percent for 23 consecutive months—nearly two years. Americans of all backgrounds have benefited from this economic boom with the unemployment rates for African Americans, Hispanic Americans, and Asian Americans all hitting record lows in 2019. The labor force participation rate is at 63.4 percent, the highest level since 2013 and nearly three quarters of new positions are being filled by individuals previously outside the labor force. Wage growth is holding at or above 3 percent for the 18th consecutive month and, under President Trump, workers' wages are rising faster than managers' wages.

With all of this success, it is easy to forget that this booming economy has also brought labor shortages throughout the economy, particularly for seasonal businesses. Right now, there are simply more seasonal jobs open than there are Americans willing, able and qualified to fill them. On behalf of seasonal businesses from industries such as seafood processing, tourism and hospitality, landscaping, fairs and carnivals, golf courses, reforestation, contractors and horse racing, who continue to struggle with seasonal labor shortages, I rise to urge the administration to release adequate supplemental H-2B visas, as authorized by the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act 2020, to meet these seasonal businesses' temporary seasonal labor needs.

As a member of the Committee on Appropriations, I coauthored the amendment in the FY 2020 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations bill that authorizes the administration to release additional H-2B visas. In January, I sent a letter with 188 of my colleagues, both Democrat and Republican, from both the House and Senate, urging the Administration to exercise that authority and release additional H-2B visas. The bipartisan support for this program demonstrates the significant economic impact these workers have across our country.

The temporary guest workers provided by the H-2B program are vital to the American economy and the economy of Maryland's First District, particularly on the Eastern Shore, and support tens of thousands of down-stream American jobs. While it is ultimately the responsibility of Congress to provide a long term solution to the chronic shortage of H-2B visas, I strongly urge the administration to use the authority granted to them to continue to support these seasonal businesses and release an adequate number of additional H-2B visas to meet the labor demands of seasonal employers nationwide.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ANN M. KUSTER**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 11, 2020*

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Madam Speaker, on Monday, February 10, 2020, I was unable to attend roll call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted AYE on Roll Call vote 55 (H.R. 2932), and AYE on Roll Call vote 56 (H.R. 3413).

#### IN MEMORY OF MIDSHIPMAN DUKE ANTHONY CARRILLO

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 11, 2020*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Midshipman Duke Anthony Carrillo of Flower Mound, Texas. On February 8, 2020, Duke passed away after collapsing during his semi-annual physical readiness test. He was a dynamic, patriotic young man intent on serving his country as a military officer.

He was the son of Gerald and Jennifer Carrillo, and brother of fellow midshipman, his twin Dylan, and younger brother Jake.

He was a 2016 graduate of Flower Mound High School. An all-star athlete, Duke was a three-year varsity letterman in football and wrestling. He was an Eagle Scout, member of the Flower Mound High School Student Council, and an active church and community volunteer. In everything that he did, Duke strived for greatness.

Led by his strong desire to serve his country, Duke received nominations to attend the United States Naval Academy and United States Merchant Marine Academy. He also received a letter of assurance from the United States Coast Guard Academy. On June 28, 2018, Duke was inducted in the Naval Academy's Class of 2022, with his twin brother Dylan.

Duke believed that service to country is one of the greatest achievements a man can have, and that he was called to take a stand to serve and protect our nation.

He aspired to be a naval aviator, was a member of the Naval Academy's Flight Training Squadron and was selected to serve as a Naval Academy Summer Seminar squad leader. Duke majored in quantitative economics, was an active member of the 24th Company and an intramural athlete.

Our nation has lost a brilliant young leader. May the world be inspired by this exceptional young man's legacy and strive to follow in his footsteps.

IN HONOR OF COURTNEY KETCHIE  
SILVER FOR BEING NOMINATED  
AND NAMED AS HONOREE FOR  
THE STEP AHEAD AWARD

**HON. RICHARD HUDSON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 11, 2020*

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Courtney Ketchie Silver for being nominated and named as Honoree for the Manufacturing Institute's Step Ahead Award.

Courtney is the CEO of Ketchie Incorporated, an ISO-certified, woman-owned corporation operating machine shop. She joined the company in 2008 and became the CEO after her husband lost his battle with brain cancer in 2014. Despite the devastating loss she took her knowledge from supply chain management and continued to propel the company forward.

I was pleased to have the opportunity to meet Courtney and take a tour of Ketchie in 2017. I was blown away by her focus on craftsmanship as well as her emphasis on, and providing of, an ideal work environment for her employees.

In addition to being CEO, Courtney remains active in the community. She is passionate about sharing her knowledge with others and encouraging woman to be leaders. In fact, she hosts community college students and participates in Manufacturing Day activities with local high school leaders. When she isn't working or mentoring, she can be found volunteering. Whether it's preparing meals for youth at local shelters or participating in church activities, there are no bounds to her generosity in our community.

The Manufacturing Institute launched the STEP women's initiative to support women in science, engineering, production, and technology careers and inspire others to join them. I cannot think of a more deserving person of this honor.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in congratulating Courtney Ketchie Silver and her STEP AHEAD award nomination and as being named an Honoree.

IN HONOR OF MRS. CHARLOTTE P.  
TAYLOR

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 11, 2020*

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise in today in honor of Mrs. Charlotte Taylor. Mrs. Taylor unfortunately passed away in May 2015. However, I am pleased to announce that Hamilton Homes Middle School (HHMS) has announced that its cafeteria will bear her namesake. A pleasant gesture commemorating her wonderful life.

Charlotte worked a rewarding 44 years as both a bus driver and instructional aid for King William County Public Schools (KWCPSS). She not only ensured the safety of our students during transit, but also selflessly served students with special needs by mentoring them and bestowing upon them the values of a principled life that we all should abide by.

Charlotte cherished family values and was a role model to her community. She was blessed with a loving family and was an incredible mother, grandmother, and wife. Her generosity and consideration towards anyone—from the local hunters to a struggling family—has not been lost on those who have met her. Her faith in God and the ethics she lived by are a reminder that God's grace lies within anyone willing and courageous enough to practice what they preach.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring the life of Charlotte Taylor

and applauding KWCPSS for approving Hamilton Homes Middle School's cafeteria to bear Charlotte's name. Her sacrifices, hardships, and devotion to others are worthy of reverence. On behalf of America's First District, we say thank you.

RECOGNIZING COURT REPORTERS  
AND THE NCRA

**HON. RODNEY DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 11, 2020*

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the important and irreplaceable work done by our court reporters and the National Court Reporters Association (NCRA) during national court reporting and captioning week from February 8–15.

As guardians of the record, Court reporters have a large impact on capturing history for posterity. During our nearly 250 years of American history, court reporters have been the cornerstone of our American justice system. From George Washington's Farewell Address to Lincoln's divided house speech, these noble servants have transcribed some of the most important pieces of American history.

Today, the NCRA provides a free course to introduce Realtime writing to all Americans. This course allows high schoolers, career changers, college redirects, and military veterans to see if a profession in Realtime writing is a good fit for them.

I'm proud to be the co-lead of H.R. 5285, the Training for Realtime Writers Act, which will help continue providing grants for training court reporters and closed captioners while also encouraging individuals with disabilities to pursue a career in Realtime writing.

I want to thank Realtime writers everywhere and the NCRA for all the hard work they do.